



NOTES

ON THE

HOSPITAL

OF

S. BARTHOLOMEW

ROCHESTER.

Reprinted from the Kent Magazine.

"Journal & Standard" Printing Works, Maidstone.

333178

FB51

ROCHESTER: Hospitals (St Bartholomew's)

REPRODUCTION: Hospitals - Great Britain



Notes on Hospital of S. Bartholomew, Rochester.

THE leprosy of the Bible (*Psoriasis*) was quite unlike the leprosy of the middle ages (*Elephantiasis Græcorum*). Of the former six instances are recorded in the O.T. and three in the N.T. They tabulate as follows:—

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Moses. | Exod. iv. 6. | Miraculous. | |
| Miriam. | Num. xii. 10. | „ | Separated |
| Naaman. | 2 Kings v. 1. | | |
| Gehazi. | „ „ 27 & viii. 4. | „ | |
| Four lepers. | „ vii. 3. | | „ |
| Uzziah. | 2 Chron. xxvi. 19. | „ | , |
| Man. | St. Matt. viii. 2. | | |
| | St. Mark i. 40. | | |
| | St. Luke v. 12. | | |
| Ten lepers. | „ xvii. 12. | | |
| Simon. | St. Matt. xxvi. 6. | | |
| | St Mark xiv. 3. | | |

It will be noticed that while some were secluded, as Uzziah, who “dwelt in a *several* house,” others, as Gehazi and Simon, continued to mix with their fellow men. The explanation may possibly be found in Levit. xiii., where it is ordered that those who are wholly covered with the disease were to be pronounced ceremonially clean. The inference is that leprosy in Bible times was not contagious.

The loathsome affliction with which Job was tried has been thought by commentators, from Origen down, to have been Elephantiasis, and the symptoms of disfigurement, etc., closely resemble those of mediæval and modern leprosy.

The

[c. 1896]

The identification of ancient maladies with modern is rendered very uncertain by the fact that they undergo constant modification in the course of generations. It has been stated that the disease was brought into Europe at the time of the Crusades ; but lazaret-houses already existed in England long before that date. By the twelfth and thirteenth centuries there were upwards of 200 in this country ; Kent containing the following :—

Bobbing.

Boughton-under-Blean.

S. Nicholas.

Buckland-in-Dover.

S. Bartholomew.

Founded 1141.

Canterbury.

S. Laurence.

1089. ?

„

S. Nicholas.

Chatham.

S. Bartholomew.

(See below).

Dartford.

S. Mary Magdalene.

c. 1330.

Harbledon.

S. Nicholas.

F. by Lanfranc
1084.

Hythe.

S. Andrew.

Ante 1336.

Oxford

Temp. Henry
III.

Ramsay Old.

SS. Stephen & Thomas
of Cant:

Rochester.

S. Catharine.

1316.

Tannington.

S. James.

Ante 1189.

A special service, including the beginning of the burial office, was provided for the reception of a new inmate, analogous to that for the profession of a religious. The lazaret-house was usually under the rule of a Prior, himself a leper, and was affiliated to a neighbouring monastery. In this, as in other particulars, our present example may be taken as typical. The malady was not confined to the humbler classes ; Henry III., Edward the Black Prince, Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, Henry IV., and Margaret of Anjou, wife of Henry VI., are all said to have been victims.

The title of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew has varied from time to time thus :—

Charter

Charter of Henry III. to the hospital, 1245, "Leprosi Sancti Bartholomei juxta Roffam."

Deed of Grant made to hospital by Prior and Convent of S. Andrew, 1249, "Pauperes et Leprosi Sancti Bartholomei extra Roffam."

Inquisition ordered by Edward III., 1342, "Prior et Fratres Sancti Bartholomei Leprosi."

Letters patent of Edward III., 1348, "Prior Fratres et Sorores Sancti Bartholomei."

Confirmation of the Letters Patent of Edward III. by Richard II., 1379, "Prior Fratres et Sorores Sancti Bartholomei."

Survey of Henry VIII. (in margin), 1545, "Hospitale in Parochia de Chetham vocatum St. Bartylmew's pro Lazaris hominibus fundatum."

Answer of Dean and Chapter to information against them in 18th, James 1st, 1620, "Prior Brethren and Sisters of St. Bartholomew."

Old Register of Hospital, quoted in brief in Chancery proceedings, p. 2, "Pauperes et Infirmi Sancti Bartholomei."

A.D. 1078.
Goodwin p.
396.
Kilburn 230.
Philpot 105.
Lambarde 364


The Hospital of St. Bartholomew, "near unto the Citie of Rochester, and within the liberties of the same citie," was founded by Gundulf, Bishop of Rochester, in the year 1078. Its titles show that it was a hospital for poor folk, lazars, and lepers.

A.D. 1124.

It would seem that the Chapel was not completed in the lifetime of Gundulf, who was consecrated in 1077 and died in 1108. His successor in the See of Rochester, Ralph, Abbot of Saye, was translated to Canterbury in 1114. To him succeeded Ernulf, who held the See from 1115 to 1124. Ernulf built the Chapter House and Cloisters of the Priory of Rochester, and at the same time Hugh of Trottescliffe, a monk of the Priory, built or completed the Chapel of St. Bartholomew.

De datoribus
beneficiorum
ecclesiæ Rof-
fensi Regis-
trum Roffens-
p. 119.

"Hugo de Trotesclive, monachus noster, postea autem Abbas Sancti Augustini fecit fieri leprosis ecclesiam, et in honorem Sancti Bartholomei apostoli dedicari."

 There is in the vestry a carved piscina ; it is worked on two sides, and its ornament is exactly the same as that on many pillar-heads of Ernulph's work in the Cathedral.



Charter of Henry III., recited in a confirmation dated 27, Henry VI. (1448), translated from the original in the custody of the Master of the Rolls :—" Henry, by the grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, Earl of Anjou, to all to whom these present letters shall come, greeting. Know ye that we have given and granted to the lepers of Saint Bartholomew, near Rochester, the liberty of 40s. yearly, which Roger, the son of Stephen, of Northwode, was accustomed to render to them at the four terms of the year, to wit, at each term 10s. for certain land, which is called

Northwode, which lies within the Hundred of Andeltune, to have and receive the aforesaid rent, with the homages escheats reliefs services, and with all liberties which our ancestors thereof have been accustomed to receive, to the lepers of the aforesaid house and their successors, freely, quietly, and peaceably, so that the aforesaid lepers or their attornies shall have power to destrain the aforesaid tenement for default ; also we prohibit and distinctly command that no Sheriff nor any other person intrude himself to the prejudice of the aforesaid lepers or their tenants, and we have granted and confirmed one messuage, which contains within itself half an acre of land, which messuage the heirs of Henry Carnifex (the butcher) hold, which lies near the Market-place of Middletun. Also we have granted and confirmed to the same lepers one horse and two cows pasturage in our pasture for their keep ; also we have granted and confirmed to the same lepers and their tenants that they shall be free from toll and theam, and from lastage throughout all our seaports and throughout all England, these persons being witnesses : Richard, the son of Nicholas (and nine others). Dated at Rochester the 20th day of May, in the 30th year of our reign."

A state of the case offered to the Bishop of Rochester by Francis Barrell, Recorder, 1716, p. 1 :—" The Priory and Convent of Rochester
seem

seem to have been the principal benefactors of the brethren of the hospital, and to have contributed the best part of their subsistence, for besides that antient Deed of Grant to them from the Prior and Convent in 1249, by which they endeavoured to excite the charity of others towards them, and in a very formal manner consign and transfer a communication of all the merits of the Priory and Church of Rochester to such as should become benefactors to this hospital, it appears from *Custumale Roffense*, fol. 85, a very antient MS., that the Priory and Convent themselves were real and substantial benefactors to this hospital, and that they had granted them several considerable corodies and weekly and daily allowances of meat, drink, and other necessarys, and particularly the profitts of the Altars of St. James and St. Giles, and some other oblations, which probably made up the best part of their maintenance, and must necessarily create a great and immediate dependance on the said Priory before the dissolution of it."

The Hospital of St. Bartholomew was a distinct and separate Corporation :—

1.—It could and did receive separate grants from the Crown, from private persons, and from the Priory of St. Andrew itself.

2.—It had a distinct style and title.

3.—The brethren of this hospital are mentioned in some ancient court rolls of the Manor of Ambree in 5th and 13th Henry VIII. (1514 and 1522) as tenants to the Priory of Rochester for some lands held from it.

4.—The hospital continued to exist by itself after the dissolution of the Priory, and after that event granted leases of some portion of its property in its corporate capacity, and therein made use of its Common Seal.

5.—The brethren are again mentioned as tenants to the new incorporation of the Dean and Chapter for the same estate (see above, 3) in the 3rd, 16th, and 23rd, Elizabeth (1561, 1575, 1582), and 13th, James I. (1615).

Inquisition

6 NOTES ON HOSPITAL OF S. BARTHOLOMEW.

A.D. 1342.

Inquisition ordered by Edward III., amongst the records in the custody of the Master of the Rolls, translated by Mr. Charles Devon. The Prior and Brethren of St. Bartholomew presented a petition to Edward III., setting forth the insufficiency of their possessions, and praying to be relieved of certain charges and burdens. In answer, Edward III. ordered an inquisition :—

“Edward, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to his beloved and faithful John de Cobham greeting. The Prior and Brethren of St. Bartholomew, of Chatham, near Rochester, lepers, have beseeched us that whereas all the goods and possessions belonging to the hospital aforesaid were not sufficient for the sustenance of the brethren and sisters dwelling in the same unless charity was shown to them from other persons, and that they had been distrained to contribute payment as well of the ninth of sheeves fleeces, and lambs as of wool, that we would will to command them to be discharged as well from payment of the ninth of sheeves, fleeces, and lambs as of wool aforesaid. We, that we may further do in this behalf what may seem to us necessary to be done, will to be certified whether the lands, tenements, and possessions belonging to the hospital aforesaid are sufficient or not for the sustenance of the brethren and sisters dwelling in the same, and what and what sort of lands, tenements, and possessions belong to the said hospital, and where and in what towns they are, and how much they are worth and might be worth yearly in all issues, according to their true value, and how many brethren and sisters there are, and how many and who of them are lepers. We command you that you have diligent enquiry made upon these premises, and return into our chancery such information thereon as shall happen to be found, and openly and distinctly certify the same under your seal, sending back to us this writ. Witness ourself at Westminster, the 1st day of March, the 16th year of our reign, but of France the 3rd (1342).”

This inquisition was duly held on the 14th day of March :—
 “Inquisition taken before Master de Cobham, Knight at Rochester, the 14th day of March in the 16th year of the reign of King Edward of England, but 3rd of his reign of France, by the oaths of Richard de Cobham

Cobham (and twelve others, whose names follow), who say, upon their oath, that there belongs to the hospital of the Prior, brethren, and sisters of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, of Chatham, near Rochester Lepers."

Here follows an enumeration of the various lands, etc. Among the possessions enumerated are these :—

"Near the burial ground of the said hospital, 3 acres." (The price of the acre is 20d.).

"1½ acres of salt meadow in Chatham, near La Teghe, worth nearly 2s."

"½ acre of wood in Boxle, worth nearly 6d."*

"Also rents from divers men and divers places: from John Taben, smith, of Middilstone, for a certain tenement . . . 18d. and 1 cock, 3 hens, and 1 lamb, price 12d.

"Also they say, upon their oath, that there belongs to the said hospital 6s for a pension, which the Almoner of the Church of Rochester pays yearly to the same Prior, brethren, and sisters."

"Also 4 quarters of corn, which the same Prior, brethren, and sisters, for the sake of charity, yearly do receive in pure and perpetual alms from the Abbot and Convent of Boxley, from the Grange of the said Abbot and Convent at Stoke, in the Hundred of Hoo, which are worth one year, with another, 13s. 4d., price the quarter 40d."

"Also from the said Abbot and Convent and place 4 quarters of rye yearly received, worth 12s., price the quarter 3s."

Also . . . 16 quarters of palm barley . . . worth 42s. 8d., price the quarter 2s. 8d."

"Also 8 quarters of oats from the Almoner of the Church of Hoo, worth 21s. 4d., price the quarter 2s. 8d."

"Also one small bacon hog from the Almoner of Rochester Church, worth yearly 12d.

"Also they say, upon oath, that all the lands, tenements, and possessions belonging to the said hospital as is premised, deducting the rents resolute, which extend to 21s. 8½d., with 2 cocks and 10 eggs, price 4½d., which the aforesaid Prior and brethren and sisters pay to divers persons for their lands aforesaid; that is to say to the Warden of Rochester Castle 4d.; also to the Bishop of Rochester, 4d.;

*This piece of ground at Boxley still belongs to the Hospital, and still grows wood.

also to the Chamberlain of the Church of Rochester, 6d.; also to Master de Magna Delce 13d.; and 2 cocks and 10 eggs, price $4\frac{1}{2}$ d.; also (here follow other payments, amounting in all to 21s. 6d.) are not sufficient for the sustenance of the aforesaid Prior, brethren, and sisters. The Prior and Convent of the Church of Rochester give to the same Prior, brethren, and sisters any of the fragments which remain in the refectory of the same Church of Rochester, but to what value they know not; also they say, upon their oath, that there are in the said hospital 9 . . . 7 sisters, of whom the Prior is a leper There are enclosed places for the cure of the sick, and one struck with epilepsy disease. Sum of all the receipts aforesaid, according to the true value in money, £9; sum of all resolute payments 70s. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. In witness whereof the jurors aforesaid to this inquisition and information have put their seals. Dated at Rochester the day, year, place aforesaid.

A.D. 1348.
Patent Roll of
22nd Edward
III. in custody
of Master of
Rolls.

Six years afterwards Edward III. grants Letter Patent, giving
quittance from all manner of taxes :—

Kilburn's Sur-
vey of Kent,
p. 230.

Note inserted
in later hand
in the old
register of the
hospital, f. 19.

“The King, to all to whom, etc., greeting, know ye that we of our especial grace and for the compassion which we have for the estate of the poor lepers of the Prior, brethren, and sisters of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, of Chatham, near Rochester, have granted for us and for our heirs as much as in us is to the same Prior, brethren, and sisters; that they and their successors shall be quit from all manner of taxes, tallages, contributions, and other quotas and charges for ever, whatsoever granted or to be granted to us or our heirs by the Commonalty or Clergy of our realm of England. In witness whereof, &c. Witness, the King, at Westminster, the 8th day of April. By writ of Privy Seal.”

A.D. 1379.

These Letters Patent of Edward III. were afterwards confirmed
by Richard II.

Patent Roll
3rd Richard
II Confirmation
in custody of Master
of the Rolls

“The King to all, etc. . . . greeting. We have inspected the Letters Patent of Lord Edward, late King of England, our grandfather, in these words (here follows the recitation of the Letters Patent as given above), and we, the letters aforesaid having approved,
freely

freely do ratify, approve, grant, and confirm the same for us and our heirs, etc., in witness whereof, etc. Witness the King, at Westminster, the 13th day of April," for half a mark paid into the Hanaper.

Grants were made to the hospital in the reign of Henry IV.

A.D.
1399-1413.
State of the
Case [Francis
Barrell], p. 1.

A.D. 1443,
Inquisition 22
Henry VI.,
Registrum
Roffense, p.
137.

Henry VI. ordered an inquisition, apparently to decide whether the Priory and Convent of Rochester had been a royal foundation.

"Dicunt (scil juratores) quod predictus Willelmus nunc prior ecclesiæ predictæ et omnes predecessores sui seisiti fuerunt a toto tempore predictæ de quodam Hospitali vocato 'Bertilmewes' juxta civitatem predictam situato in parochia de Chetham. In quo quidem Hospitali predictus Willelmus nunc prior et omnes predecessores sui usi fuerunt ad recipiendum homines pauperes et leprosos ibidem ad libitum predicti prioris et predecessorum suorum commoratorios et Deo servituros. Et quod dictus Dominus rex nec aliquis progenitorum suorum unquam fuit fundator hospitalis predicti nec aliquod interesse ut fundator aliquis eorum habuit in eodem a tempore predicto, &c."

A.D. 1448.
Patent Roll
27 Henry VI.
in custody of
Master of the
Rolls.

Five years afterwards Henry VI. confirmed the Charter of Henry III. (1245), and confirmed also Richard II.'s Confirmation (1379) of Edward III.'s Letters Patent (1348).

Valor Eccle-
siasticus, vol.
1. p. 104, in
Cathedral
Library.

In "Valor Ecclesiasticus" (Henry VIII.), in the accounts of the Almoner of the Priory of Rochester, there occurs the following entry : "Dat fribus and sororibus Sci. Berthi. in Chattham "per annum pro anima (aia) Gundulphi quondm. Epi Roffensis 6s."

A.D. 1540.
Chancery pro-
ceedings,
Attorney-
General v.
Patron and
Brethren, p. 23
of Brief to
Defendants.

31 Henry VIII., dissolution of the Priory and Convent of Rochester. "At all time until the dissolvment of the Priory of St. Andrew the hospital was of the advocacy or patronage of the Priory of St. Andrew, of Rochester, and the places of Prior, Master or Governor, and Brethren and Sisters were dative by the Prior of St. Andrew."

This

This patronage was, together with the manors and lands of the Priory of St. Andrew, surrendered to the King by the then Prior of St. Andrew, Walter Philipps.

The Hospital of St. Bartholomew was neither surrendered nor dissolved, although from the loss of all its corodies and allowances from the Priory of Rochester it fell rapidly into decay.

A.D. 1541.

Henry VIII., by Letters Patent, erected and created the Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary, of Rochester, and appointed a Dean and Chapter. The first Dean was Walter Philipps, who had been the last Prior at the time of the dissolution of the Priory (18th June, 33 Henry VIII.).

By other Letters Patent (20th June, 33 Henry VIII.) the patronage of St. Bartholomew's was again granted to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral and their successors for ever.

The Hospital of St. Bartholomew continued an unbroken independent existence. In 1544, John Dove, Prior or Master of St. Bartholomew's, granted a lease "with the assent of his brethren." And in 1545, George Bewme, Master of St. Bartholomew's, granted a lease "with the assent of all his brethren." No mention is made in these recitals of any assent of the Dean, or of the Dean and Chapter.

Old Register
A.D. 1547.

37 Henry VIII. In a survey made in this year, mention made of the house or mansion of the hospital, with 3 rods of lands adjoining thereto, yielding per annum 13s. 4. Also of a parcell of land, containing 9 acres, adjoining to the house of the aforesaid hospital, worth 9s.'

A.D. 1559.

2 Elizabeth. Only 19 years had passed since the hospital had lost the support of the Priory of St. Andrew, but the Chapel had already fallen into decay. This appears from the terms of a lease granted "of the Chappell of St. Bartholomewes, together with the ground thereto belonging, in the midst whereof the Chappell stands, and of a tenement or shopp built on the east side of the gate-house leading unto the said hospital, unto George Hope, smith, for foure score and nynteene yeares, in consideration that he should make the said Chappell (being old and ruynous, and like to come to utter decay) to serve for an honest and seemely dwelling-house."

This

A.D. 1570.
page 364.
(Ed. 1596).
Fol. 13.

This occurred in the time of Walter Philipps, the first Dean, who had also been the last Prior. He was Dean from 1541 to 1570. There is no record of the appointment of brethren during this period. Probably but few appointments were made, the revenues of the hospital having been reduced so greatly that Lambarde, in his Perambulation of Kent, speaks of it as a "poor show of a decayed hospital." There is, however, in the old register booke of the hospital a list of 15 brethren appointed between the years 1571 and 1665.

A.D. 1574.
Martin Cote's
Register,
quoted (as the
"oldest known
to be now ex-
tant"). Same
Brief, p. 14.

Leases were granted by the brethren with the consent of the Dean, the rents to be paid to the brethren, timber and woods being reserved. This continued to be the usual form, but two Deans, Dean Milburne in 13 James I. (1616) and Dean Castillion in 22 Charles II. (1681), adopted the form. "This indenture . . . between . . . Dean . . . Patron and Governor, etc. . . . and Brethren . . . of the one part, and . . . of the other part." In other leases, e.g., in the time of Dean Balcangnall (1624) the brethren alone grant the estates, with the consent of the Dean.

A.D. 1619.

17 James I. An attempt was made to obtain for the King possession of the hospital and its estates on the double pretext that they were concealed lands, and that they were devoted to superstitious uses.

Under cover of these pretexts the King granted the estates to Viscount Doncaster, who in turn granted them to John Buck, Walter Lingen, and William Wells.

1619

Brief plead-
ings in ancient
suit, p. 1.

A warrant was then issued by Sir John Townsend, who had the management of all things granted in these Letters Patent, requiring the tenants to show cause before Mr. Crooke, "one of the Lord of Doncaster his counsell," why they should not deliver up their estates.

1620.

The Dean appeared on their behalf by Mr. Thos. Lee, "of counsell with the Church of Rochester."

Sir

Sir John Townsend tried to make good the King's title, but Mr. Crooke ruled that unless they could shew the hospital to have paid first fruits to the King, he could not be entitled to it.

Sir John Townsend asked time for enquiry, and promised at the same time that in the event of the King's title being proved, the estates should nevertheless be conveyed to any whom the Dean should nominate upon reasonable conditions.

The Dean, wishing to decide the matter, gave them £20 in hand, and promised more if it should be ruled that the King's title was good, and the lands conveyed to him by the King for the use of the brethren. While the matter was thus depending, Sir Richard Bingley, the then Surveyor of the Navy, who was tenant to most part of the estates, "did secretly deal" with Sir John Townsend, in order to have the estates conveyed to such as he should nominate for the use of himself and his wife. Sir J. Townsend, "being very willing to take any money also of him," agreed, and caused the patentees, Buck, Lingen, and Wells, to convey the lands unto Messrs. Gilborne and Lucas for Sir Richard Bingley. Some of the tenants refusing to acknowledge these transactions, and continuing to pay rent to the the Brethren, Sir Rd. Bingley caused in 1620 an information to be laid against them.

A.D. 1620. An information was filed by Sir Thomas Coventry, the Attorney General, against the Dean and Chapter, and Brethren and tenants :—

"That whereas before the reign of our late sovereign Lord, King Henry VIII., there was founded by His Majesty's progenitors in the parish of Chatham, in the county of Kent, a Hospital, Priory, or Fraternity, called St. Bartholomew's, consisting of a Prior andrtai ces Friars or Brethren, and Sisters, to pray for the souls of the Foundern and all Xtian souls departed, or for some such other superstitious use, intent, or purpose. . . . which said Priory long since was in due form of law surrendered and dissolved. . . . and come unto his Highness. . . . by virtue whereof his Majesty was actually seized of thesaid Fraternity, Priory, or Hospitall," &c.

The

The information farther charged the defendants with having combined to conceal the King's right, and with having intruded upon 14 messuages and 40 acres of land, parcell of the possessions belonging to the said Hospitall.

The tenants answered by Mr. Thos. Lee, giving a general denial to the charges, stating the amounts which they had expended in improving the property, and urging the injustice of depriving them thereof.

The Dean and Chapter answer that the Hospital was an ancient lay hospital of the advowson of the Prior of St. Andrew, and since the Dissolution, of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral. That it had consisted from time immemorial of a Governor (or) Prior, Brethren, and Sisters, who were secular, not regular. They deny that it was founded by any of his Majesty's progenitors—that it was intended for any superstitious uses—and that it was ever surrendered or dissolved.

A.D. 1622. This was followed by a replication of the Attorney General, re-asserting the charges, and this replication by a rejoinder of the Dean and Chapter, and the other defendants, denying them as before. A commission was now appointed for the examination of witnesses, "but Sir Rd. Bingley would never execute the same, but by the conveyance aforesaid intituled himself to the estates."

The Dean and Dr. Filesley, one of the prebendaries, some time afterwards petitioned Parliament, but without result. The Brethren next petitioned the Attorney General that he would call before him all parties to the suit. This being done, and Sir R. Bingley failing to make out the King's title, the Attorney General gave order that the suit in the Exchequer should not be proceeded with, but advised an agreement. This failed, and shortly afterwards Sir R. Bingley died.

A.D. 1624. Upon the appointment of Dean Balcangnall, at the instance of the poor brethren, he caused Lady Bingley to show title in the Court of Chancery, and to restore the rents detained from the brethren. The matter was submitted for arbitration to Ed. Smith and John Seldon,
of

of the Inner Temple. The award, based ‘upon view of an inquisition taken in the 22nd year of Henry VI., and other ancient books and writings,’ was to the effect that since the lands of the hospital had always been held and enjoyed to and with the Priory, and afterwards to and with the Cathedral, and the rents received by the poor men whom the Dean should place therein, and in order to bar all future title and claim from the King, Lady Bingley should cause Gilborne and Lucas to convey, at the cost of the Dean, to such persons as the Dean should nominate. The Dean was further to renew to Lady Bingley her existing leases, and to release her from all arrears of rent, and to pay her £50 lawful money of England. The estates were then conveyed to Lee, Somer, Rowle, and Somer on behalf of the brethren.

The costs of these suits were found to be seven score pounds, which sum was raised by tenants taking new leases and paying fines.

This deed was executed 14th June, 1627. Subsequently, in the year 1632, Somer and Rowle and Somer, the surviving trustees, executed another deed, resigning their trusteeship, and confirming the estates in full to the brethren for ever.

A.D. 1627.

Pleadings in
ancient suit,
p. 4.

On the surrender of a lease of the Chapel granted 2nd Elizabeth 1559, it was renewed to one Robert Perryn, a blacksmith, into whose possession, indeed, it had already come, for in his answer to the claim of King James in 1619 he stated “that he had bestowed great costs thereupon, and had made it convenient and fit for habitation.”

Robert Perryn's
lease.
Old Register
Booke, fol. 21

In the renewal of the lease it is stated that “the Brethren, with the consent of the Dean, do demise, grant, and to farm lett unto the said Robert Perryn all that their Chappell of St. Bartholomewes being now made meete and seemely dwelling-houses, and the soyle and ground whereupon they stand and are buylded, together with a peece of ground in the midst of which they are buylded.”

The lease contained also a clause providing that it “may and shall be lawfull to and for the said Robert Perryn, his executors, and assigns to take and pluck down at his and their wills and pleasures the tymber, tyle, and stone of the said Chappell, soe that the same be bestowed
and

and employed to the only reparacons and buylding of the premis ses and none otherwise.”

A.D. 1632. Five years afterwards, 8 Charles I., the following entry occurs :—
Old Register “Memorandum, lease of the decayed Chappell renewed to Robert
Booke, fol. 18 Perryn and Dorothy his wife.”

A.D. 1660. At the time of the Restoration, Dean Hardy reserved for himself the entire management of the hospital. At all times it had been usual for the brethren to be appointed by the Dean solely ; a few instances, however, occur of appointment by the Dean and Chapter under their Common Seal.

According to the usual form of appointment the brethren were “to enjoy all profits, rights, privileges, commodities, and appurtenancies whatsoever belonging to the room and place of a brother.”

A.D. 1665. In one singular instance the more limited form is used : “The place of brother, together with all the yearly rents and profits to the same belonging.”

It does not appear that any Dean before the Restoration took fines on the renewals of leases, but the practice prevailed uniformly from 1660 to 1834, all Deans receiving them for their own use during 174 years.

Dean Hardy, the first who adopted the practice of taking fines on the renewals of leases of the hospital estates, at his death left large bequests to the cathedral. It having been suggested that he was prompted to do this by his conscience, uneasy at the thought of the amounts which he had received from the hospital, Dean Prat, in 1716, quaintly answers that then he would have left his bequests to the hospital and not to the cathedral, “Sure that worthy Dean never meant to rob Peter and pay Paul, or thought that Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary (to whom the Cathedral is dedicated) could be bribed to connive at the robbing of St. Bartholomew.”

Mr. Francis Barrell, the Recorder, in a letter to the Bishop retaliates on Dean Prat for praising Dean Hardy, remarking that “it would

would have been sure more naturall to have first proved that the Dean was a just man in this particular before he concluded that he needed no repentance."

A.D. 1670. In Dean Hardy's time the rental of the hospital had been raised from £13, its amount at the time of the dissolution of the Priory of Rochester, to £18 4s. 6d.

A.D. 1681.
Same brief, p.
33.

Dean Castillion adopted the title of Governor, Dean Milburne alone having previously borne this title. The name of Governor had sometimes been applied to the Master or Prior of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, being the chief member of that eleemosynary corporation, and entitled to share in all its emoluments. There is, however, no doubt that the Dean of the Cathedral was not the Prior or Master of St. Bartholomew, for he is never named in the leases as one of the demising parties, and examples occur in which both are mentioned together, as in the answers to the Inquisition of Edward III., one of which states that "the Prior and Convent of the Church of Rochester give to the Prior, Brethren, and Sisters of St. Bartholomew certain payments and allowances.

A.D. 1690. Lease to Stephen Garret of "that one messuage or tenement, consisting of the several rooms following, that is to say, one hall, one buttery adjoining or being part of the said hall, one chamber over the said hall, one little chamber over the said buttery, and a garret over each of the said chambers, with garden adjoining to Chatham Streete."

A.D. 1699. Lease to Robert Gother of part of the Chapel containing "two lower roomes and two upper roomes."

In 1716 the number of brethren was three.

1. Verger of the Cathedral.
2. A Minor Canon of the Cathedral.
3. The Deputy of the Registrar of the Hospital and of the Chapter Clerk.

State of the
case, Francis
Burrell, origi-
nal copy, p. 4.

Dean Prat's
letter to the
Bishop, p. 3.

For 80 years before this the number had been only two.

The

Dean Prat's
answer to
Bishop's inter-
rogatories, p. 2

The revenues amounted in 1716 to £36 9s. 10d.

Same brief p.
20.

In 1716 a dispute arose between the Dean (Prat) and the Chapter, on the subject of the hospital. The Chapter maintained that the poor brethren ought to have the benefit of the improvements on their estates ; that the reserved rents ought to be made with greater regard to the improved value ; or if any fines were taken they ought to be applied solely for the benefit of the brethren. They also claimed a voice in the management of the estates, on the ground that they had, jointly with the Dean, defended the title, and paid the money to Lady Bingley.

The Dean insisted on the constant enjoyment of his predecessors as evidence of right, there being no evidence of the Chapter having at any time interfered.

The dispute was referred to the Bishop of the diocese, who administered interrogatories, and Mr. Recorder Barrell was requested to report. He accordingly prepared "A state of the case of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, humbly offered to the consideration of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Rochester, Sept., 1716. (This was Bishop Atterbury).

A.D. 1724.

Eight years afterwards further interrogatories were administered. In answer, the Dean (Clayett) stated that Dean Prat had increased the number of brethren from two to four, and had raised the yearly revenue from £13 9s. 0d. to £36 9s. 10d.

From that time no action seems to have been taken. The practice afterwards was perfectly uniform. The Dean alone managed leases, received renewal fines for his own use and appointed brethren without any interference on the part of the Chapter.

With reference to the chapel the following passage occurs in a letter written by Dean Prat to the Bishop of Rochester :

" I

“ I considered in ye next place ye very scandalous condition in which a sacred chapple belonging to ye said hospital had long been in. This little chapple was doubtless built by ye said Bishop Gondulphus, founder of ye said hospital. But I found it partitioned into tenements upon 21 years leases, I suppose by the assignees of Lord Doncaster. I resolved to buy out ye lease or ye leases of ye said chapple, and did so at an extravagant rate. I have pulled down ye partitions, repaired ye said chapple, new floored it, furnished it with a pulpit and desk, and have sent thither a stone font likewise ; if ye ministers of Chatham and St. Margaret’s will think it a convenience for them to make use of, their respective churches being at a great distance, and our situation being very populous. I design likewise, God willing, to furnish ye said chapple with altar table, books, seats, and other necessarys at ye sole charge of ye patron and governor.

Your Lordship will believe it was not last in my thoughts how this Chapple should be supplied by a well-qualified Chaplain without cost or detriment to the present subsisting two brethren, and so as my Lord Bishop of Rochester might approve and commend. Of which I shall give your Lordship a more particular account hereafter.”

A.D. 1735.
Same brief,
p. 22.

William Walter, Esquire, of Chatham, purchased the lease of two messuages and gardens “to the intent to lay one of the said messuages into St. Bartholomew’s Chapel, and to enlarge and fit up the same for the accommodation of the inhabitants of Chatham resorting thither to hear Divine Service.” The other premises to be let, the rent to go for repairs, and the surplus to such pious uses in respect of the enlargement or ornament of the Chapel as the Dean and his successors should appoint.

William
Walter’s deed

These tenements are described as standing “on part of the ground where sometime the Chappell or part thereof formerly stood.”

A.D. 1743.
Kentish
Traveller’s
Companion, p.
184. Ed. 1794.

“ The piscina was fixed in the N. Wall by Mr. Walter, and marks the boundary of the houses purchased by him,” and added to the chapel.

Three

A. D. 1787. Three galleries were erected in the Chapel by Edward Crowhurst at a cost of £92 6s. 6d.

A. D. 1794.
Kentish Traveller's Companion, p. 183. Ed. 1794. "In the apse are 3 narrow windows, in one of which the zig-zag moulding used in the early Norman buildings may be traced; but the mouldings of the other 2 windows are smooth, being corroded by time and weather,"

A. D. 1820. Appointment of Dean Stevens, who in 1829 and 1830 expended £227 7s 10d. on the repair of the Chapel. And in each succeeding year down to 1846, Dean Stevens paid the cost of repairs, clerk's salary, singers' salaries, &c. And for six years previous to 1846 he paid also to the Rev. W. H. Drage, Minor Canon, and Vicar of St. Margaret's £50 per annum for duty every Sunday morning at the Chapel 1840-1846.

A. D. 1834. The Hospital came under the notice of the Charity Commissioners. In this year the case placed by the Recorder Barrell before the Bishop of Rochester in 1716 was laid before Mr. Longley, who pronounced strongly against the Dean's right to receive fines.

After 1836, therefore, no more fines were received, the custom of 174 year being set aside.

A. D. 1838.
Wright's Topography, p. 79. Ed. 1838. "The chapel is at present not used generally for religious purposes; a morning service is performed on the second Sunday in every month."

A. D. 1858. The Charity was restored and remodelled by a decree of the Court of Chancery, and is now under the management of the Dean of Rochester, as patron and governor, four brethren appointed by him, and trustees, some of whom are *ex officio*. and others are appointed.

A. D. 1863. A new building was erected on higher ground, to the south-west of the site of the old hospital, and was opened in 1863 as a hospital for the relief of the sick poor.

A. D. 1896 The restoration of the ancient chapel is now completed. The late Sir G. Gilbert Scott, to whom the work was entrusted, spoke of the

the building as a "precious archæological and historical relic, the preservation of which is of the utmost importance." The whole of the walls are ancient, save the west front and north aisle. The windows in the south side of the nave have flat wooden lintels; probably on account of the hospital cloister, which abutted. At the S.E. angle of the nave the wall has been cut into to obtain space for an altar against the chancel arch. The broken wall was supported by a chalk half-arch, and the spring of the arch that formed the canopy of the altar remains. Some colouring on the wall, and the recess of the aumbry, are still preserved. On the south side of the chancel is the old priest's door, leading to the vestry, in which is the Norman piscina. The most interesting feature is the domical apse, with its own arch. This is rare even in the earliest Norman churches. In the respond of the apse arch on the south side a thirteenth century sedile has been inserted. The small arch above it has no key-stone, but is formed of two large stones, held together by a stone dowel. In the east side of the arch of the side chapel a consecration cross is marked. This side chapel is perhaps the oldest part of the church, its quoins being of Tufa.

The work of restoration has been long and costly, having involved an outlay of more than £3,000. The ancient walls have been carefully underpinned, and every stone preserved and replaced.

The Church is in the High Street, exactly at the junction of Rochester and Chatham, and is well worthy of a visit, as being one of the very oldest and most interesting Norman buildings that remain, and because to it the whole neighbourhood is indebted for the preservation of Bishop Gundulf's endowment, by which the present valuable hospital is largely maintained.

